

Faith Lutheran Church & School

Forward in Faith

April - June 2026

"Where faith meets life"

Galatians 2:20

Our Mission:
Sharing the word of Jesus Christ through a loving and caring ministry responding to the needs of all people.

STAY CONNECTED

2265 Red Lion Road
Bear, DE 19701-1849

OR

P.O. Box 1000
Bear, DE 19701

Church 302-834-1214
School 302-834-3417

WORSHIP SERVICES

Contemporary @ 8:15 AM
Traditional @ 10:30 AM
Livestream @ 10:30 AM
5th Sunday @ 9:30 AM

WEBSITE:

www.faith-lutheran.church

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@FaithLutheranChurchBearDE

FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/faith.bear.de

PASTOR'S EMAIL:

revthress@icloud.com

OFFICE EMAIL:

Office@faith-lutheran.church



The Miracles of Jesus – An Easter Bible Study

When Jesus entered the world, He performed an awesome miracle. Our Creator through Whom all things were made (John 1:3) became part of His creation. During His ministry, Jesus used miracles as signs of His identity and as a reflection of His heart for His broken creation.

The culmination of His miraculous work took place in His death and resurrection. The heart of God made flesh poured out His own blood as the ultimate sacrifice for sin and then beat again as He claimed final victory over death itself to restore and heal His creation once and for all.

As we celebrate the season of Easter over the next several weeks, I will be offering an evening Bible class that walks us through several of Jesus' famous miracles. This study will provide a great opportunity to delve into the purpose behind Jesus' miracles, to reveal His heart for the broken, and to consider how His miracles performed thousands of years ago still impact our faith and life today.

Please join me for this special four-week "mini-study" during this Easter season on Thursday evenings - April 16, April 23, April 30, and May 7 - at 7:00PM. We will meet in person in the narthex, or you may join on Zoom. Meeting information is located on the next page.

I look forward to spending this time together in God's Word. My hope is that this will be the beginning of more "mini-studies" together especially for those who may not be able to commit to something long-term.

(continued)

Forward in Faith: April - June 2026

I pray this Easter season draws you closer to the miracle of Jesus - our God and Savior - Whose heart of compassion for you and for all His creation draws us to Himself and then back out to the world to share His heart with the broken.

In the Name of our Resurrected Lord Jesus,

Pastor

Meeting information

Topic: The Miracles of Jesus

Time: Apr 16, 2026, 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Thu, until May 7, 2026, 4 occurrence(s)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82632200893?pwd=qipktZFj8269lvIh3FEBXEzKYDhx71.1>

Meeting ID: 826 3220 0893

Passcode: 917393



Congratulations to Pastor Mike for faithfully leading Faith for 25 years! God's blessings to you as you continue to keep us moving Forward in Faith.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 2nd: Maundy Thursday Service (*) @ 7 PM

April 3rd: Good Friday Tenebrae Service @ 7 PM

April 5th: Easter Morning Services

6:30 AM Sunrise Service (*)

8:15 AM Contemporary Service (*)

9:30 AM Join us for Fellowship

10:30 AM Traditional Service (*)

(*) Holy Communion offered

Celebrate our Risen Lord by joining us for fellowship @ 9:30 AM. You are invited to bring something to share. Beverages will be provided.

All children are invited to a special Sunday School Lesson and Easter Egg Hunt during the 10:30 service. Weather permitting, it will be outside!



COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE:

Writing this on the first warm day in weeks I feel a sense of hope! Winter will give way and the flowers will actually bloom, and leaves appear on the trees! I pray you still have a sense of hope even in the midst of all the chaos in our world with its uncertainty and great pain. And indeed, we do have hope, because in just a few days we will celebrate the only true reason for hope: Our Lord's resurrection to life and the promise of eternal life for all who believe! We ARE Easter people!

(continued)

Forward in Faith: April - June 2026

This spring also brings us a tremendous opportunity to take care of our church in a way that will bring growth for the kingdom. We are initiating a capital drive called **“FAITH-full Stewardship: Taking Care of Our Church.”**

You might recall from previous messages that one of our HVAC air conditioning units went out, and then our elevator failed. The cost of repairing the HVAC is \$27,000 and initially the elevator was going to cost us \$16,500. But the good news regarding the elevator is that Loren and Keith found another vendor and were able to get it running again for only \$4,000! God is graciously working through his people! So, now our goal is \$31,000 instead of \$43,500!

Please prayerfully consider what you can give to this effort. It will take all of us doing what we can, whether big or small. Perhaps you received a bigger tax return this year due to tax law changes. Maybe you got a raise at the beginning of the new year. Maybe you have decided not to travel so far this year because of this volatile world. However, God leads you, please consider a way to support your church.

Participating in raising these funds is simple. You can take one of the “Building Fund” offering envelopes and mark “FAITH-full” on it. Or you can go online to our website, click on the “Giving” tab up on the top right, and then select “Capital Improvements” to give to this campaign.

God has already blessed us and I’m excited to see how he brings us all the way through! So, we indeed have hope, a sure hope not just brought about by warmer weather, but by the grace and love of our amazing God!

Pete Mueller

Chairman, Church Council

PASSOVER MEANING FOR CHRISTIANS

The First Passover

The first Passover is a significant event in Jewish history, marking a pivotal moment during the Israelites' time of slavery in Egypt. In Exodus 7-12, God sent ten plagues to persuade Pharaoh to release the Israelites. The tenth and most devastating plague was the death of every firstborn in Egypt.

God provided a way for the Israelites to be spared from the final plague in Exodus 12. God instructed them through Moses to sacrifice a spotless lamb and mark the doorposts of their homes with its blood. God said, "The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt" (Exodus 12:13). This act of faith and obedience demonstrated the Israelites' trust in God and saved them from suffering the same fate as the Egyptians.

The Symbolism of the Passover Lamb

The Passover lamb's characteristics hold rich symbolic meaning. In Exodus 12:5, God told Moses that the lambs had to be a year-old male without blemish, which represents purity and flawlessness. This detail emphasized the need for a perfect sacrifice, one untainted and worthy to cover the people's sins.

The act of sacrificing the lamb is central to the idea of substitutionary atonement. By shedding the lamb's blood, the Israelites were shielded from the death of their firstborn sons. The lamb took their place, *highlighting the theme of a life given to save others*. This concept is echoed throughout both Old and New Testaments as a profound representation of God's provision for reconciliation.

(continued)

Forward in Faith: April - June 2026

Jesus' Last Supper

Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples took place during the Jewish Passover and is in each of the 4 Gospels: Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-30; and John 13:1-30. **During this Passover Seder meal, Jesus used two familiar parts of Passover**—unleavened bread and wine—to explain something new. He said, “And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me” And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. (Luke 22:19-20).

In doing this, Jesus revealed that He was the sacrificial lamb. His death would bring freedom—not only from the bondage they felt to the Romans, but from sin and death. He took an old tradition and gave it new meaning. Christians remember the Last Supper every time we receive Communion.

Jesus Christ: The Lamb of God

Jesus' life and death fulfill the prophetic imagery of the Passover lamb in remarkable ways. John the Baptist said, “**Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world**” (John 1:29). In the week leading up to his crucifixion, Jesus was scrutinized by religious leaders and high priests—just as the Passover lamb was examined for defects—through challenges to His authority, traps involving political and theological questions, and tests of His knowledge of the law (Matthew 21-22; Mark 11-12; Luke 20). However, the scrutiny only highlighted Jesus' purity and perfection, making Him the only worthy sacrifice for humanity's sins. **His blood saves people not from physical death, but from eternal death and separation from God.**

The events during Jesus' crucifixion also mirror the preparation of the Passover lamb. From His arrest to His death during the Passover festival, Jesus endured trials and sufferings that culminated in His crucifixion at the exact time the Passover lambs were being sacrificed. This timing underscores the fulfillment of the biblical requirements for the Passover lamb, reinforcing Jesus' role as the Lamb of God. As foretold in Isaiah 53:7, Jesus "was like a lamb led to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth."

John's Gospel confirms that none of Jesus' bones were broken when He was crucified, which is a fulfillment of Psalm 34:20: "he protects all His bones, not one of them will be broken." This detail, along with other parallels, signifies that Jesus meets all the requirements set forth for the Passover lamb, providing salvation through His sacrifice. Jesus died as the ultimate fulfillment of the Passover.

The Lamb of God and Your Calling

The Passover is more than just a part of Jewish history. It points directly to Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. From the first Passover in Egypt to the death and the resurrection of Jesus, we see God's plan to rescue and redeem His people. Jesus, through His sacrifice, embodied the true significance of the sacrificial lamb by shedding His innocent blood for all humanity. By understanding the meaning of the Passover and how it points to Jesus, Christians gain a deeper appreciation of their faith.



Many thanks to Jill Mackey and Mike Semenoro for organizing our Passover Seder Dinner on April 1st. Twenty-eight folks (plus a seat for the Prophet Elijah) enjoyed the Seder service, led by Jill, and followed with a delicious traditional meal! Thank you to everyone for helping with setup, preparing the dinner, carving chickens, and finally, cleaning up!



WOMAN OF FAITH (LWML)

Women of Faith, of all ages, are invited for an

Afternoon Tea Party

*Hosted by the
Women of Faith's Ministry
Sunday, April 26th at 12:30 pm*

*For more information, please contact
Renee Flickinger,
at (443-907-0512) or
email: flickinger.d.renee@gmail.com*

HOW WE SERVED OTHERS

THANK YOU FROM ABCFOC

Dear members of Faith Lutheran Church,
I want to extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation for all you did to ensure our families could provide a wonderful Christmas for their children. Our kids have seen and experienced so much that it warms my heart that they got to experience so much joy and love because of you! Thank you so much!
With gratitude,
Heather Holiday
ABCFOC

A Better Chance For Our Children

SOUPER BOWL FUNDRAISER

During February, \$541 was raised for the benefit of **Orphan Grain Train**.
Thanks to all of the soup makers!



A HUG FROM MATT: SPRING/SUMMER NEEDS

Socks (male/female)
Rain Ponchos
Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
Deodorant
Hand Sanitizer
Lip Balm
Sunscreen
Tissues
Combs
Body Wipes
Water
Peanut Butter & Non-perishable Snacks

Thank you for helping those less fortunate, but please only donate the items listed. Thank you!

A HUG FROM MATT - WINTER BAGS

We may be fortunate enough to enjoy the glimpses of spring, but to many less fortunate, it is still cold – especially at night. Thank you to everyone who donated specific items for the extra winter bags that were needed. Please see the list, to the left, for the spring/summer items.



MONTHLY REMINDERS

Monthly meetings are held the 1st Saturday of the month @ 9:30 AM. All women are invited and encouraged to attend and participate in our mission work which supports Faith, our community, and around the world.

The 1st Sunday of the month is Mite Box Mission collection. Wear purple and show your support for LWML. Money collected, no matter how small, adds up and helps support global mission work.

MONTHLY MITE OFFERINGS RECEIVED

\$68,339.54

MONTHLY MITE OFFERING TARGET

\$118,504.70

OVER (UNDER) BIENNIUM TO DATE MITE OFFERING TARGET

\$(99,539.03)

17.3%

And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins [mites], which make a penny (Mark 12:42).

MISSION GRANT GOAL \$2,622,270

BIENNIUM TO-DATE MITE OFFERINGS REPORT

July 1, 2025 – November 30, 2025

MITE OFFERINGS COLLECTED	NOVEMBER	BALANCE APPLIED TO MISSION GOAL	% ALLOCATED TO GRANTS	BALANCE APPLIED TO MISSION GRANTS
CARRYOVER FROM PREVIOUS PERIODS*				\$477,607.24
DISTRICT OFFERINGS	\$56,873.45	\$273,156.40	90%	\$245,840.76
GOLF OUTING PROCEEDS	\$0.00	\$1,135.00	100%	\$1,135.00
MISSION WALK PROCEEDS	\$0.00	\$9,722.69	100%	\$9,722.69
JOYFUL RESPONSE	\$815.00	\$4,075.00	100%	\$4,075.00
ROUND UP FOR MITES	\$79.25	\$1,618.25	100%	\$1,618.25
THRIVENT CHOICE	\$557.00	\$5,098.04	100%	\$5,098.04
GIVING DAY 2025	\$0.00	\$62,043.24	100%	\$62,043.24
GIVING DAY 2026	\$0.00	\$0.00	100%	\$0.00
CONVENTION OFFERING #1	\$0.00	\$6,481.14	100%	\$6,481.14
YEAR-END APPEAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	100%	\$0.00
MITE OFFERINGS-RESTRICTED	\$3,266.55	\$48,838.12	100%	\$48,838.12
MITE OFFERINGS-UNRESTRICTED	\$6,748.29	\$67,247.71	100%	\$67,247.71
ENDOWMENT MITE DISBURSEMENTS	\$0.00	\$13,568.88	100%	\$13,568.88
	TOTAL	TOTAL		AVAILABLE WITH CARRYOVER
	\$68,339.54	\$492,984.47		\$943,276.07



2025-2027 BIENNIUM MISSION GRANT GOAL

\$2,622,270.00

OTHER BUDGETED MISSION GRANTS EXPENSE

\$221,842.83

TOTAL 2025-2027 MISSION GRANTS BUDGET

\$2,844,112.83

AMOUNT (NEEDED)/EXCESS OF MISSION GRANTS BUDGET

\$(2,351,128.36)

NO.	MISSION GRANT	DISBURSED	% PAID	PENDING PAYMENT
1	Regional Disaster Response LERT Shower Trailers, LCMS Office of National Mission, Disaster Response Ministry, U.S.	\$0.00	0%	\$81,500
2	Help for Ukraine's Orphans and Displaced Persons, Orphan Grain Train, Europe	\$0.00	0%	\$100,000
3	Portable Laundry Trailer, Forged by Fire Services, U.S.	\$50,000	50%	\$50,700
4	The Perpetual Call for Pastors and Teachers, LCMS Office of Pastoral Education, U.S.	\$0.00	0%	\$100,000
5	Growing Together to Share Braille and Large Print, Lutheran Braille Workers, U.S.	\$0.00	0%	\$100,000
6	Christ-Centered Hope for Cancer Patients, Phil's Friends, U.S.	\$50,000	50%	\$50,000
7	Light of Jesus Christ to Unwed Homeless Mothers, A Place of Refuge Ministries of South WI, Inc., Wisconsin	\$0.00	0%	\$75,000
8	Building a Place of Care, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, North Dakota	\$0.00	0%	\$60,000
9	Introducing Muslims to the Savior, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Global	\$0.00	0%	\$100,000
10	Healing Your Heart — Faith-based Child Counseling, Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin, U.S.	\$75,000	75%	\$25,000
11	NOT ALONE: Gospel Help for Families in Crisis, Lutheran Family Service, Iowa	\$0.00	0%	\$92,500
12	Gospel Outreach through the Digital Mission Field, Lutheran Hour Ministries, U.S.	\$0.00	0%	\$100,000
13	Reaching God's Children in Haiti, Trinity HOPE, Haiti	\$0.00	0%	\$61,782
14	Reaching Jewish People with the Gospel in Israel, The Apple of His Eye Mission Society, Asia	\$0.00	0%	\$100,000
15	Arch Books for Immigrant Children in the USA, Concordia Publishing House — Concordia Gospel Outreach, U.S.	\$0.00	0%	\$125,000
16	The Teaching of Lutheran Pastors in West Africa — Sierra Leone and Liberia, Project: Pastoral Education West Africa	\$0.00	0%	\$86,000
17	Mobilizing After School Care for Teens, Our Place After School Care Inc., Hastings, Nebraska	\$69,500	100%	\$0.00
18	Scholarships to Support International Deaconesses — Tanzania, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Africa	\$0.00	0%	\$100,000
19	Support Rev Roberto and Katie Weber, LCMS Missionaries to the Dominican Republic, North America	\$0.00	0%	\$10,000
20	Mercy Triumphs: LCMS Prison Ministry, LCMS Office of National Mission, U.S.	\$0.00	0%	\$84,500
21	Shining a Bright Gospel Light, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Mobile, Alabama	\$0.00	0%	\$78,675
22	Redeeming Life New Moms and Babies Transition Home, Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, Illinois	\$0.00	0%	\$100,000
23	Sharing Faith and Food with Single Mothers, Riben Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas	\$0.00	0%	\$38,800
24	Ministry Scholarships for Shepherd's Canyon Retreat, Arizona, U.S.	\$50,000	50%	\$50,000
25	Pastoral Wellness: Pastor Family Week, Camp Linn Haven, North Carolina	\$0.00	0%	\$15,000
26	Developing Capable Christian High School Leaders, Sioux Falls Lutheran School, South Dakota	\$0.00	0%	\$100,000
27	Teaching Christ to the Physically Handicapped, Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, Louisiana	\$0.00	0%	\$12,000
28	Mission Opportunities for a New Generation, MDST Ministries, Global	\$0.00	0%	\$50,000
29	Sharing God's Love and Changing Lives of Families, Camp Restore Detroit, Michigan	\$0.00	0%	\$81,313
30	Increasing Access to Lutheran Counseling Services, Concordia Counseling: A Lutheran Outreach Ministry, Inc., Indiana	\$0.00	0%	\$100,000
31	Speaking Truth Around the Table, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, U.S.	\$0.00	0%	\$75,000
32	Proclaiming Christ in Honduras, Mision Evangelica Luterana Confesional en Honduras, Central America	\$0.00	0%	\$25,000
33	Reaching Out with God's Love in a Safe Place, Forward, a Ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska	\$21,500	22%	\$78,500
BUDGET		TOTAL DISBURSED	12%	\$2,306,270.00
TOTAL GRANT FUNDS DISBURSED		\$2,622,270.00	TOTAL PAID	PENDING PAYMENT
OTHER MISSION GRANTS EXPENSE		\$221,842.83		
		TOTAL GRANT FUNDS DISBURSED		
		\$347,261.50		
TOTAL 2025-2027 MISSION GRANTS EXPENSE		\$2,844,112.83		
		MITE OFFERINGS AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION		\$596,014.57

But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:16).

Birthday Blessings

April

04/03 Betty Agovino
04/04 Luke Lewis
04/06 Benny Figgs
04/07 Katie Drummonds
04/07 Betty Logan
04/08 Tanya VanSant
04/10 Cynthia Hopkins
04/12 Jillian Jones
04/12 Kristine Turner
04/13 Rich Andela
04/13 Jordan Dalby
04/14 Leila De Luz
04/17 Noelle Turner
04/20 Jenna Borntreger
04/20 Renee Flickinger
04/23 Bodie Nawrocki
04/30 Katelyn Drummonds

May

05/07 Danielle Bennett
05/07 Helena McNeil
05/09 Kym Caudill
05/15 Nancy Malkin
05/16 JoAnne Gross
05/18 Kelly Figgs
05/18 Craig Gross
05/20 Keith Greigg
05/21 Nick Turner
05/27 Gary Harp
05/27 Herta Patrick
05/29 John Jr. Bettinger
05/29 Michael Thress

June

06/03 Leah Meyer
06/04 Arne Wilkening
06/05 John Bettinger
06/08 Brody Faverio
06/15 Georgia Bennett
06/16 Anthony Zelano
06/19 Madison VanSant
06/20 Anthony De Luz
06/21 Julie Jones
06/21 Alexis VanSant
06/21 Sue Zebley
06/22 Preston Turner
06/24 Erin Loveless
06/25 Jack Agovino
06/27 Adele Mueller
06/28 Tim Dalby
06/30 Ulrich Toensmeyer

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
For ages 4-12



TROPICAL TREK
Jesus Comes to Seek and Save

June 22nd - June 26th
6:00 - 8:00 PM



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

ALTAR FLOWERS:

If you would like to place altar flowers in the sanctuary, in honor of someone special or in memory of a loved one, please visit the flower signup sheet in the narthex. The cost is \$40.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES:

Sundays @ 9:30 AM – Adult Bible Study

Tuesdays @ 10:30 AM – Small Group Study at the home of Amy Cannavo.

See Amy for future study topics and dates.

Thursdays @ 10:00 AM – Women's Bible Study – meet in the narthex

Thursdays @ 7:00 PM – New Bible Study beginning April 16th – 4-week study on “The Miracles of Jesus”.

Meetings will take place in the narthex or Zoom is available. Check the bulletin for Zoom meeting details.

Forward in Faith: April - June 2026